



2 December 2016

Planning Ahead

Thursday, 15 December – **Christmas Program**

Full dress rehearsal: 1:00 p.m.

Program: 7:30 p.m.

Friday, 23 December – **Early dismissal** for Christmas vacation. 12:00 noon.

Monday, 26 December-Monday, 1 January 2017– **Christmas Vacation.**

Monday, 16 January – **Martin Luther King Day. No school.**

Do We Pray for your Children?

The short answer is, "Yes!" We do pray for your child and your family. In our prayer times each morning, in our Wednesday afternoon prayer time, and as teachers and Prayer Warriors we regularly pray for your children. We pray for their success in school, in relationships, and, especially, in their relationship with Jesus, our Savior.

However, I will confess that some students get prayed for more than others. To illustrate, when I directed a 120 voice choir in my previous school, there were many students who were unremarkable. When I assigned grades at the end of the quarter, these were the students for whom I could remember nothing good or bad. They got a "C" grade. If I did remember specific students, it was because they were either notably good or notably bad. They got "B" or "D," or occasionally "F" or "A" for their grade.

The same thing seems to be true here when we pray for your children. There are some students for whom we pray almost every day. Others are rarely prayed for. We praise God for students who distinguish themselves by making right choices in spite of ridicule from their classmates. We praise God for students who demonstrate strong leadership ability and exercise it in positive ways. We most frequently pray for students who regularly make wrong choices, are disruptive, or are actively turning their backs on Jesus.

I'm not making excuses for this; I'm being honest, maybe too much. Too often the "good kids" who are neither extra good nor bad get overlooked by many of us. This is wrong and, on behalf of all of us, I apologize. Someone has said that doing the right thing all the time is its own reward. But I believe students who are consistently faithful day after day in making right choices should be recognized and affirmed – and prayed for.

If your child is one of those who just blends into the background by being neither extra good or by being bad, take time to affirm him or her for making wise choices day after day – and thank God for them and bless them. They deserve it!

Praying with you for **all** of our children,

James E. Gochnauer
Principal